

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 DRC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11

COME-00 FEA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

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FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 702

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL GENERAL ELECTION CALLED FOR
APRIL 2ND

1. PREMIER GERALD REGAN (LIBERAL) ON FEBRUARY 23 SET APRIL 2ND AS
DATE FOR NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL GENERAL ELECTION. LAST ELECTION
WAS OCTOBER 1970 SO THAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT STILL HAD EIGHTEEN
MONTHS BEFORE TERM EXPIRED.

2. IN ANNOUNCING ELECTION PREMIER STATED STRONG MANDATE NEEDED TO
ALLOW GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT PROVINCE'S RIGHTS IN NATIONAL
AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY IN FIELD OF ENERGY. HE SAID QUOTE THE
ENERGY CRISIS CANNOT BE SOLVED BY PROMISES, ONLY BY LONG, HARD
NEGOTIATIONS -- I AM ASKING THE PEOPLE OF NOVA SCOTIA FOR A
MANDATE TO CONTINUE THOSE NEGOTIATIONS IN PURSUIT OF A LOW
COST ENERGY POLICY. UNQUOTE

3. DATE SET FOR ELECTION IS EARLIEST TIME IN YEAR IN NOVA SCOTIA
HISTORY. PREMIER CLEARLY CONSIDERS IT MOST PROPITIOUS TIME TO
TRY TO INCREASE HIS SLENDER MAJORITY (PRESENT STANDINGS ARE
LIBERALS - 24, CONSERVATIVES - 19, NEW DEMOCRATICS - 2, ONE
SEAT VACATE).

4. OPPOSITION CONSERVATIVES MAIN THEME WILL BE FAILURE OF LIBERAL
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GOVERNMENT IN ECONOMIC AREA, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO COST OF

LIVING AND INFLATION. NEW DEMOCRATS WILL ATTACK LIBERAL SPENDING
RECORD ON PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE NOT REALLY BENEFITED AVERAGE NOVA
SCOTIAN.

5. PERSONALITIES RATHER THAN ISSUES MAY DETERMINE RESULTS IN SOME
CONSTITUENCIES. FOR EXAMPLE FORMER DYNAMIC AND COLOURFUL MAYOR OF
DARTMOUTH, ROLAND THORNHILL, HAS ANNOUNCED HE WILL RUN AS
PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE TO CONTEST SEAT OF DARTMOUTH SOUTH
PRESENTLY HELD BY LABOUR AND HEALTH MINISTER SCOTT MACNUTT.
MANBEY

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